

ers the cup of hot water and low power microscope. It is a poor and meager specimen, indeed, from which such little bits as are required for this purpose can not be taken without injury, but even this will be obviated when collectors learn to preserve surplus flowers, fruits, etc., for subsequent dissection.

Much has been said, one time and another, about the convenience of loose material for study, with the implication that mounted material was inconvenient just in proportion to the security of the attachment to the herbarium sheet. For my own part I avoid, as much as possible, handling loose specimens, and *for study* prefer things securely mounted. My mind is then relieved of any undercurrent of care lest labels or specimens get misplaced, I find open spaces left on the sheet for any sketches or analyses that I may care to make, and the identical fragment had under examination can be placed in a pocket alongside to attest the accuracy of the drawing. Notes can be written down and all this will remain while the sheet lasts as certainly appertaining to the very specimen made the subject of study. I can go so far as to mark with a little \times the precise spot in head, spike, ament or what not, from which I detached my fragment for examination. For effecting such detachments with a minimum of injury to the specimen I use a tool painfully suggestive of a dentist's outfit, but really of more agreeable antecedents, a fine little chisel made by breaking off the hook of a steel crochet needle and then sharpening the end to a crosswise edge. The long handle gives a firm hold, the cutting edge is very narrow and with a steady thrust, under a lens, one may cut just the part desired without bringing away, unintentionally, ten times more than is wanted.

— M. S. BEBB, *Rockford, Ills.*

NOTES AND NEWS.

REV. FRANCIS WOLLE'S "Diatomaceæ of North America" has just been issued. It contains 2300 figures and 112 plates.

IN THE *Public Ledger* (Feb. 19) of Philadelphia Mr. Thos. Meehan has published a long and interesting account of Rafinesque.

IN THE article of Dr. Homer Bowers on *Hydrastis Canadensis*, which appeared in the March number, the following corrections should be made: p. 76, 9th line from bottom, "inclines" should read "inclined"; p. 77, last line, erase "not." This last is naturally a very important correction.

UNDER LEAVE of absence from the University of Wisconsin Prof. Chas. R. Barnes will spend the time from April to September at Cambridge as assistant in the Gray Herbarium. It is the intention of the director, Dr. Sereno Watson, to have the important bryological collections rendered available to students as soon as possible. The initiation of this work together with the revision of the Field, Forest and Garden botany which is in progress, will occupy Prof. Barnes' time. Correspondents will please note the change of address.